

**Amendments To the Abstract:**

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 13 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT--

In the English translation document, please add the paragraph at page 13 line 1, after the newly added ABSTRACT section heading, as follows:

The invention relates to the autonomous, adaptive control of a network element in a packet-oriented and connection-less communication network, and to the coupling of a plurality of network elements.